the RARS EXciter

Raleigh Amateur Radio Society

RARS

Worldwide Friendship

December, 2000
Number 362

Stimulating Emergency Test

W3HL, KG4HDT Play In Traffic at the State EOC

RARS WINS FIELD DAY 8A!

FIELD DAY 2000

Next RARS Meeting: Tuesday, Dec. 5th

- Holiday Party -

The Exciter

The ***Exciter*** is the monthly newsletter of the Raleigh Amateur Radio Society. It is available in both printed and electronic form. The printed version is mailed to members just before each club meeting. The electronic form, in Adobe Acrobat PDF format, is e-mailed about a week earlier.

We solicit both articles and advertising. The deadline for submissions is the 15th of the prior month. Contact the Editor.

The views contained in the Exciter are those of the individual authors, and are not necessarily the views of the Editor, or the Raleigh Amateur Radio Society.

The Raleigh Amateur Radio Society

The Raleigh Amateur Radio Society, Inc. (RARS) was founded in 1969 and continues to serve and support the Amateur Radio community in the greater Triangle area. In 1999, we incorporated a new RARS, and obtained 501(c)(3) Non-Profit tax status.

The objectives of the club are to promote worldwide friendship through Amateur Radio; to be of public service by providing radio communications in times of disaster, emergency, or civic need; to educate members in radio technique; and to provide training classes to assist in obtaining Amateur Radio licenses.

Anyone interested in Amateur Radio is eligible to apply for membership. Dues for regular licensed amateurs are $18.00 per year (from July 1 through June 30). Additional immediate family members pay $5.00 each per year. Dues for licensed amateurs older than 59 or younger than 16 are $12.00 per year. Dues for non-licensed Associate members are $9.00 per year.

Applications for membership may be obtained from the treasurer, or the RARS web site (www.rars.org).

Officers

President	**Tim Nicholson KF4RTX** **501-7746** **kf4rtx@arrl.net**
Vice-President	**open**
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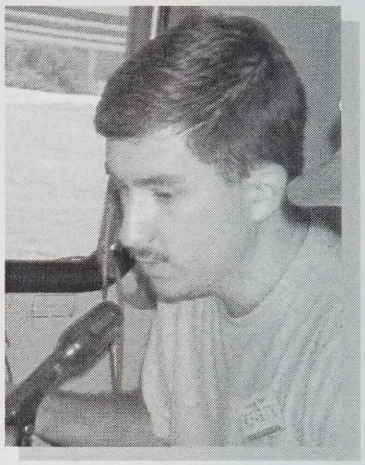
President's Corner

Tim Nicholson KF4RTX

My Wish List



Christmas time! Time for looking in catalogs and making wish lists. What? You don't do that any more? That's one of the most fun things to do at Christmas. I remember as a kid waiting anxiously for the Christmas catalogs in the mail and writing my wish list as I flipped through them. I still find myself watching for the Christmas catalogs, except now I look for ham radio catalogs instead of the department stores. So please excuse me while I make out my wish list.

What better way to start a ham radio wish list than with radios? I would start my list with an ICOM W32A, which seems to be the RARS club radio of choice (well, OK, not everyone will endorse it, but there sure are a lot of them out there). Next on my list would be an ICOM 706 MK II-G so I can work HF as well as VHF and UHF from the truck. Last, but certainly not least would be an HF rig. I would have a tough time deciding which one to choose, but my first choice would be a Yaesu FT-1000 MP MARK-V.

What else could I put on my wish list? Oh, yes, antennas. Assuming I lived in an area with no covenants restricting them, I would have several antennas. A tower, dipole, loops, you name it. Why wish small? And I can't forget a screwdriver antenna for the truck to use with the 706.

Christmas time was always a fun time for making wish lists. Unfortunately for Santa, my list now has bigger, more expensive toys. Santa, if you're reading this, I'm saving some extra cookies and milk for you, and the power supply will be waiting to fire up all this new equipment. And I've been good…I promise!

2001 Officers, Board Elected

Officers/Board:
Vice President: Bob Breyer, K1RCB (two year term)
Treasurer: Greg Seamster, KE4PAX (two year term)
Public Service Director: Bill Cole, KG4CXY (all one year terms)
Education Director: Lynn Pitegoff, KO4QH
RARS Hamfest 2001 Chair: Hank Montgomery, K4HM
***Exciter* Editor:** Gary Pearce, KN4AQ
Membership Chair: Denyse Walter, KG4CXR
Net Manager: Bill Cole, KG4CXY
At-Large Director: John Jascolka, N4YRD
At-Large Director: Alan Pitegoff, AB4OZ
ARRL Liaison: Chuck Littlewood, K4HF

Committee Chairmen:
RARS Vol. Exam Coordinator: Charlie Brown, W4VFJ
RARS Librarian: Jim Walter, KG4FIJ
RARS Web Master: Ashby Spratley, III, KB5ZIH
W4DW, W4RNC Trustee: Jeff Wittich, AC4ZO

RARS Wins Field Day 8A Nationwide (again)!

December 2000 ***QST:***

By Dan Henderson, N1ND
Contest Branch Manager

Field Day 2000 Results

Certain annual events are always tied to the seasons. If you hear the ringing of bells and see Salvation Army kettles at the mall, you know it is Christmas and winter. When you see the plethora of football on the television, you know fall is just around the corner. Budding crocuses and the Masters golf tournament are seen to mark the beginning of spring. And when people's attentions turn to generators, portable antennas and covered-dish suppers, you can bet it's summer and the ARRL Field Day—the largest Amateur Radio event in any calendar year—is at hand.

"The first Field D...

Field Day Entries By Class

1A	215	14A	1
2A	517	16A	1
3A	344	17A	1
4A	154	18A	
5A	90	30A	
6A	32	35A	
7A	23	1B1	
8A	14	2B1	
9A	4	1B2	
10A	1	2B	
11A	3	1C	
12A	1	2	
13A	1		

Top 10 Sc...

8A					
Raleigh ARS					
W4DW (+W2BYV)	4064	2	42	12,510	NC
Birmingham ARC					
W4CUE	3814	2	63	11,730	AL
Gwinnett ARS					
W4GR	2498	2	185	7,510	GA
Mississauga ARC					
VE3MIS	1240	2	18	6,360	ON
NOMADS ARC					
NØTM (+WBØWUR)	1179	2	10	4,472	NE
Warren ARA					
W8VTD	1204	2	9	4,306	OH
Mahoning Valley ARA					
W8QLY	1176	2	50	4,190	OH
Kitchener-Waterloo ARC					
VE3IC	1101	2	10	4,172	ON
Triple "A" ARA					
AC3J (+KB3BQR)	469	2	70	2,186	WPA
Cleveland ARC					
W4GZX	335	2	20	1,992	TN
Spa ARA					
WB5SPA	410	2	10	1,920	AR
9A Battery					

Jeff Wittich AC4ZO
Field Day Chairman

"Hello everybody, and welcome to *Sports Planet*, the sports show that's guaranteed to bring you something unusual in the world of sports.

I'm Chip Dipgrid, and with me as always is my colleague Dan Hamland. Dan, what have you got for us today?"

"Well Chip, I've got a special treat for our listeners today. We've got a radio-sport event!"

"Radio-sport? What's that, Dan?"

"It's wild, it's wacky, and it's a lot of fun, Chip. We've got about a thousand teams across North America poised to play in this weekend's event, in which teams try to talk to as many other teams as they can before the clock runs out."

"Why would they wanna do that, Dan?"

"We don't really know Chip, that's what makes it so wacky. But going is good underfoot, and we're just about ten minutes away from the start of competition. Let's go to Debbie Zepp down on the field and get the word from the contestants in this weekends match up. Deb?"

"Thanks Dan. I'm standing here in a mosquito and chigger infested field with Band Captains Greg Miller, and Chuck Littlewood. Greg, what do you have to do to win this thing?"

"Well, we're gonna have to put a lot of calls in the log early on before the high bands close. We've got 10 and 15 meters here, and the early hours are important..."

"Ok, thanks Greg... Chuck?"

"Well... I think we're going to have to be able to hear. If we can hear, we should do ok."

"Ok, thanks guys... Back to you Chip."

"Thanks Deb. See if you can get a word with the Chairman before they get underway, ok? Dan, what's all this about calls, and logs, and hearing and all? Doesn't sound like anything I've ever witnessed before."

"Nor I, Chipster. Should be fun to see how it all pans out. Oh look! Debs waving at us from the food tent. Deb, whattaya got for us?"

"Dan, I'm standing here with Jeff Wittich, the event Chairman for the team. And although we're just about to get started, he's looking like he's about to fall out any minute. Lemme see if I can get a word

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PUBLIC SERVICE CALENDAR

For details visit www.rars.org/public-service or call Bill KG4CXY at 469-0785

Raleigh Marathon

FULCRUM
RALEIGH MARATHON
AND 5-K RUN
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3rd 2000

Sunday, December 3. To volunteer, contact Ralph Embry KF4NIR at kf4nir@aol.com.

I attended a great meeting tonight! The Raleigh Marathon event organizers look sharp. They are all experienced and professional. And they need a bunch of amateurs to help them. That's us!

We will provide approximately 35 volunteers. Some will cover an aid station; some will patrol a sector of the course; some will travel with the race directors and sector chiefs; and some will provide added support. This event will be the premiere public service showcase this year. I am very excited to be involved and am glad to see all of you interested in volunteering your time and talents.

I am going to be meeting with the staff more frequently as race day approaches. I will bring you more info as they decide exactly what their needs will be. Tonight we covered basics.

This event will be from 6 am until approximately 2:30-3 pm. Start planning power needs now. They said they will provide us with special shirts for race day. And...will feed us!

I will put out a race course guide soon and more details will follow.

Thanks again,

Ralph Embrey
Communications Coordinator
Fulcrum Raleigh Marathon
kf4nir@aol.com

Going Once, Twice...

The RARS Auction table was loaded with goodies - and more "nice" radios and accessories than usual amid the junk-box fodder. Auctioneer Cliff Broughton KF4RDP guided often spirited bidding. The "buyer-pays-seller" policy worked well. Thanks to Cliff and Alan Pitegoff AB4OZ who organized the event. Alan took less than half the stuff home with him!

Cliff and assistant Rick KB4RZ get the audience interested in some software.

Eric KG4CXW shows interest in an old telephone, but Jeff AZ4ZO wanted it more, and won the bidding. Both are in the modern "telephone" business.

the RARS Exciter Web Update

RARS Exciter Expands to the Web

Gary Pearce KN4AQ
Exciter Editor

The RARS ***Exciter*** newsletter is the primary source of news in the club, but let's face it - speed is not one of its virtues. Like any magazine, weeks pass between the publication deadline and the time you get it in your hands. With so much going on in Amateur Radio in the Triangle, you can use information faster. The club nets and the **RARS-L** mailing list bridge a lot of that time gap, with announcements and bulletins from everyone participating in club events. But sometimes you just need to be able to see it all, in one place.

Enter the ***Exciter Web Update!*** The ***Web Update*** is on the RARS Web Site (www.rars.org/news). Content is added and updated as quickly as possible by the editors of the RARS Exciter (ok, right now that's just me, but saying "editors" makes it sound more impressive).

The ***Web Update*** began life as *What's News?*, assembled by webmaster Cliff Braughton KF4RDP. Recently, Cliff told me he was having a hard time keeping it updated, and besides, I seem to have my finger on the pulse of the ham community through the Exciter, so could I take over? "Sure," I said, needing more to do. But it's true - people are starting to toss more news my way. So it makes sense. And I'm planning to keep it simple - just quick, text blurbs and links to what's happening.

I decided to extend the ***Exciter*** "brand" to the effort and name it the ***Exciter Web Update.*** So check it out, and if you keep me up to date on your activities and news, I'll keep it stuffed with fresh content.

By the way, some back issues of the real ***Exciter*** are also available on the RARS Web Site in the Adobe Acrobat **PDF** format. They are hidden away in the *Members Only* section of the site. The Board has been skittish about giving away the ***Exciter*** too readily - they see it as a membership incentive. Can't say I blame them, though many other clubs make their newsletter archives available on their web sites.

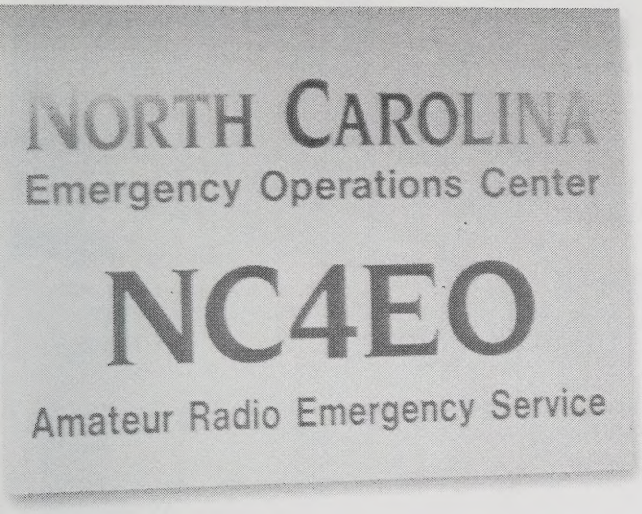
What's an "Exciter," anyway?

This question has come up several times recently. As far as many new hams in RARS know, an "exciter" is a club newsletter. And I've seen some quizzical expressions on faces when I ask "yes, but do you know what an 'exciter' *really* is?"

Ham club newsletters are often associated with technical or operational terms in the hobby. "Feedline" is one of the most popular newsletter names (the Cary ARC newsletter is one of many "Feedlines" across the world). A newsletter I edited in Chicago many years ago was called the "Squelch Tale". Note the spelling of "Tale", (I didn't make that name up). There are *Sparks, Intermods, Wavelengths, Skips,* a *Voyager, In the DARC* (Dallas ARC), and quite a few unimaginative "*News*'s". And there are a few other "*Exciters*" out there.

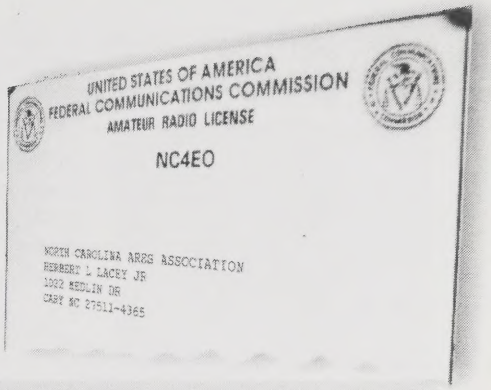
OK, I'll quit stalling. "Exciter" is not an archaic term yet, but it's getting there. You don't hear it mentioned in Amateur Radio circles much, unless you know someone with a big amplifier. I searched for a complete, technical definition, but I couldn't find one - even on the web. But basically **an exciter is the RF stage that precedes the final amplifier**. If you have a transceiver followed by one of the big kilowatt amplifiers, the transceiver is called the *exciter*. I've usually seen the term refer to separate, physical boxes, but I suppose it could refer to just one stage of a transmitter in a single box.

So, RARS is the big Power Amplifier... and the ***Exciter*** just gets things started!



NC SET Floods State EOC With Traffic!

Gary Pearce KN4AQ



Let's face it. Traffic handling... you know - Message 25 Routine, ready to copy - is not ham radio's most popular activity. Having trouble going to sleep one night? Pull out the ***ARRL Operating Manual*** and review the sections on the minutiae of passing messages. You'll be lights-out in no time.

So, what got the 28 or so hams who came down to the State EOC on November 4th and 5th so charged up? That weekend was the statewide Simulated Emergency Test, and many North Carolina counties participated (many other counties held their SETs on other weekends). Wake County ARES used e-mail and the Tar Heel Emergency Net to let the rest of the counties know that the State EOC station would be on the air, available to take traffic.

We scheduled operators from 8 am to 8 pm on Saturday, and from 8 am to 2 pm on Sunday. I expected to get a few messages during the course of the day, and spend the bulk of the time reviewing the radios and going over area repeaters and linking systems.

My plans changed at 8:00:30 when we checked into the expanded Tar Heel Net, and were met with an avalanche of traffic, all addressed to the State EOC. Most of the operators on each two-hour shift had little or no experience with formal message traffic (they sleep well at night, I guess). So I quickly tossed message blanks at

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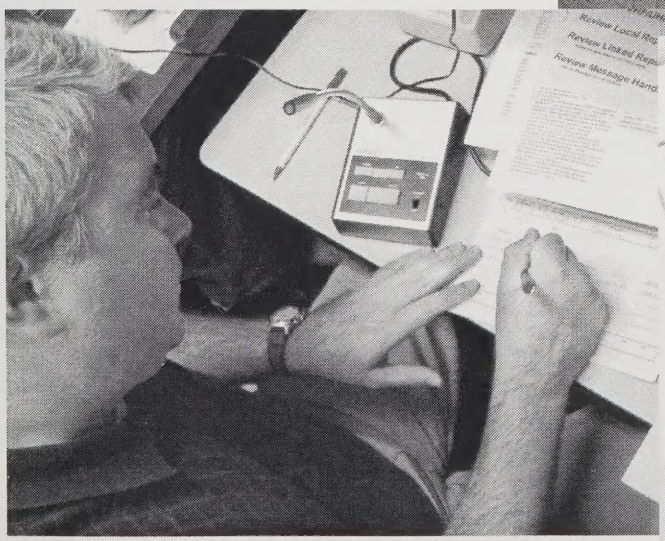
State EOC Becomes NC4EO

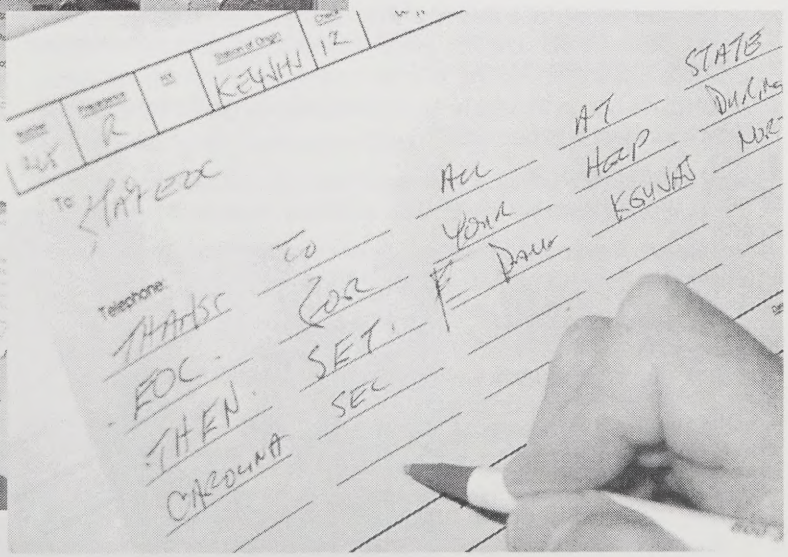
The Amateur Radio station at the State EOC has a new callsign, thanks to Herb Lacey W3HL. For years, the RARS callsign W4DW was also used during drills and activations at the EOC station. RARS was happy to provide the callsign, but last year several of us figured that the Vanity program provided an opportunity to get the station a meaningful callsign of its own.

Herb volunteered to do the legwork, and put together the ***North Carolina ARES Association*** as a club. Then he filed for a license. Once the regular sequential license was issued, Herb filed for the vanity callsign **NC4EO.** We would have liked NC4EOC, but the FCC isn't issuing callsigns in that configuration.

Actually, good ARES operating procedure calls for stations to use *tactical identification* and reserve callsigns for legal ID. That would make ***State EOC*** the ID of choice, with NC4EO just being dropped in at the end of an exchange. But the reinforcement doesn't hurt.

A callsign is in the works for the Wake County EOC as well.

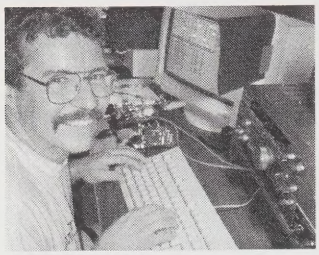




Pictures, clockwise from left: KN4AQ, KG4HDT, WD4MGP and AF4WY crowd into the radio room at the State EOC at the beginning of the SET. KG4FJA copies message 25 Routine, a "thank-you" message to Wake ARES hams from SEC KE4JHJ. W4IK gets his introduction to message traffic in the heat of battle.

Field Day continued from page 3

with him. Jeff? How do you feel about this years' team?... Jeff?"



"Uh... just work it, man."

"Just work it? Ok. Now, you've been here before. You're a veteran of 8A competition. How do you expect this years' competition to compare to previous years?"

"Uh... just work it, man."

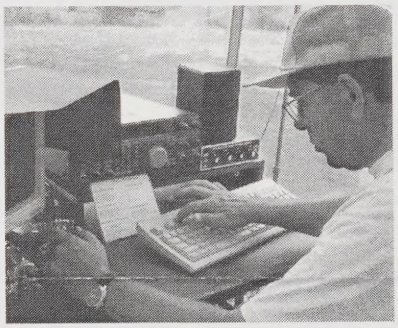
"Ok, so... will you be looking mostly to search-and-pounce, or will you rely on the run stations? What's your starting strategy going to be?"

"Uh... just work it, man."

"Hmm... Chip? There you have it. Back to you."

"Ok, thanks Deb. Were just seconds away from the gun now, and you can almost feel the electricity in the air as the starting operators are all "in the chair," counting down the final seconds. Let's look in on the 20 meter CW station as action gets under way."

"Chip, that's Dale W4AUV, the Ted MacElroy of RARS in the chair down there on 20 cw to kick things off. He's adjusted the key, and tested the keyboard and it looks like he's got a run frequen... no, he's spinning the dial again... THERE! He seems to have found a spot at 14023 and it looks like... yes he's definitely sending. It sound's like a CQ message, Chip."



"That's impossible Dan! The starting gun hasn't gone off yet. Why would he be sending already?"

"Dunno Chip. You know the sport as well as I do. Let's see what he has to say... '*CQ CQ CQ FD DE W4DW W4DW*' and with one second to go before the start of competition... YES! There's the '*K*' and just as the gun goes off. We're under way!"

"I see what he was doing Dan. He was staking out his spot on the band, and worked out the timing so that his first call would come at the very beginning of the event!"

"And it looks like it's really paid off Chip... with 9 seconds on the clock, he's got Indiana in the log, and already picking them off the top of the pile-up."

"And that's how it starts here at the N4CAE site on Friendship Road, near Apex, North Carolina. FD2K is under way! Dan, what can we expect in the coming hours?"

"Chip, it's gonna be a lot more of what you see going on right now. 24 hours worth to be exact."

"Is that all they do?"

" 'Fraid so, Chip."

"Really? Nothing else?"

"Nope, not unless you count eating the pulled pig-butts."

"A beg yer pardon?"

"Well Chip, these guys are hams. They don't work for free. Ya gotta feed um. *A lot.* Food for the players this year was provided by Bill KG4CXY, who has raised the bar a few notches by having the pork provided by a local porkery: *Red Hot and Blue.* We expect that if we have any injuries in this year's event, the food tent is where they'll most likely be. Look's like Deb Zepp is expecting some serious action over there, too. She's hardly left it all day."

"So I see. OK Dan, that's all the time we have for now. We now take you back to the studio as this edition of Sports Planet comes to a close. Join us tomorrow for the exciting conclusion to this unusual event."

The Next Day

"Hello everybody, and welcome to *Sports Planet*, the sports show that's guaranteed to bring you something unusual in the world of sports. I'm Chip Dipgrid, and with me as always is my colleague Dan Hamland. Dan, what's been going on?"

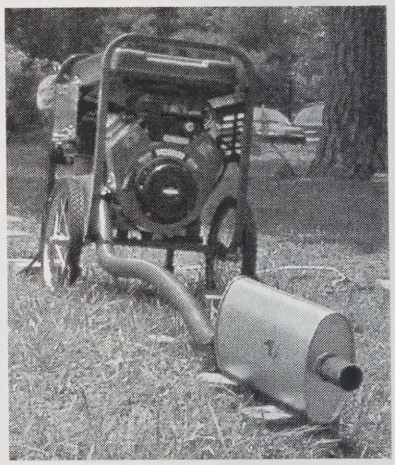
"Well Chip, it's been a long 24 hours. We began our coverage yesterday of this 24 hour radio-sport event, and now, we're moments away from the conclusion of competition."

"Great Dan, so... what have we seen so far?"

"Chip, What you see before you is what's been going on all night. For 24 hours now, we've actually seen very little movement around the field. Just the occasional trip to the food tent, and a few of the contestants have actually made their way to the port-a-potty."

"Good golly Dan, is that all you've got to report?"

"Well no Chip... About 3 this morning we noticed a slight change in pitch in the continuous droning of the generators. Deb woke her camera crew and they set off to see what the excitement was about. Turned out they had shut off one of the generators which was low on gas and had to be refueled."



"OK, Dan. Sounds like you had an exciting night. What happens next?"

"Well Chip, the competition completes in just a few minutes now, but really! I don't think we'll be able to tell much difference... I mean if things slow down any more when they finish, they'll be stopped completely."

"So what you're saying is that maybe this is not much of a spectator sport?"

"I think you've hit the nail on the head, Dipgrid. It's probably more of a participation sport... and here comes the completion of the event... 3...2...1, *it's over Chip.*"

[Pause]

"So, is anything happening Dan?"

"Yes! Yes it is Chip, I can see people emerging from tents all over the place. And they look like, well... they look like they've not slept in a long time. Other than that, there's not much excitement surrounding the conclusion of the event."

continued on next page

Running the Triathlon
(the radio part, that is...)

Eric F. Haywood KG4CXW

I rolled out of bed at a bright and early 4:30 am on the morning of October 1st, after tossing and turning all night fearing that some unforeseen issue would cause a communications breakdown. I proceeded through my morning routine, grabbed my extra batteries and charger, and proceeded to the event.

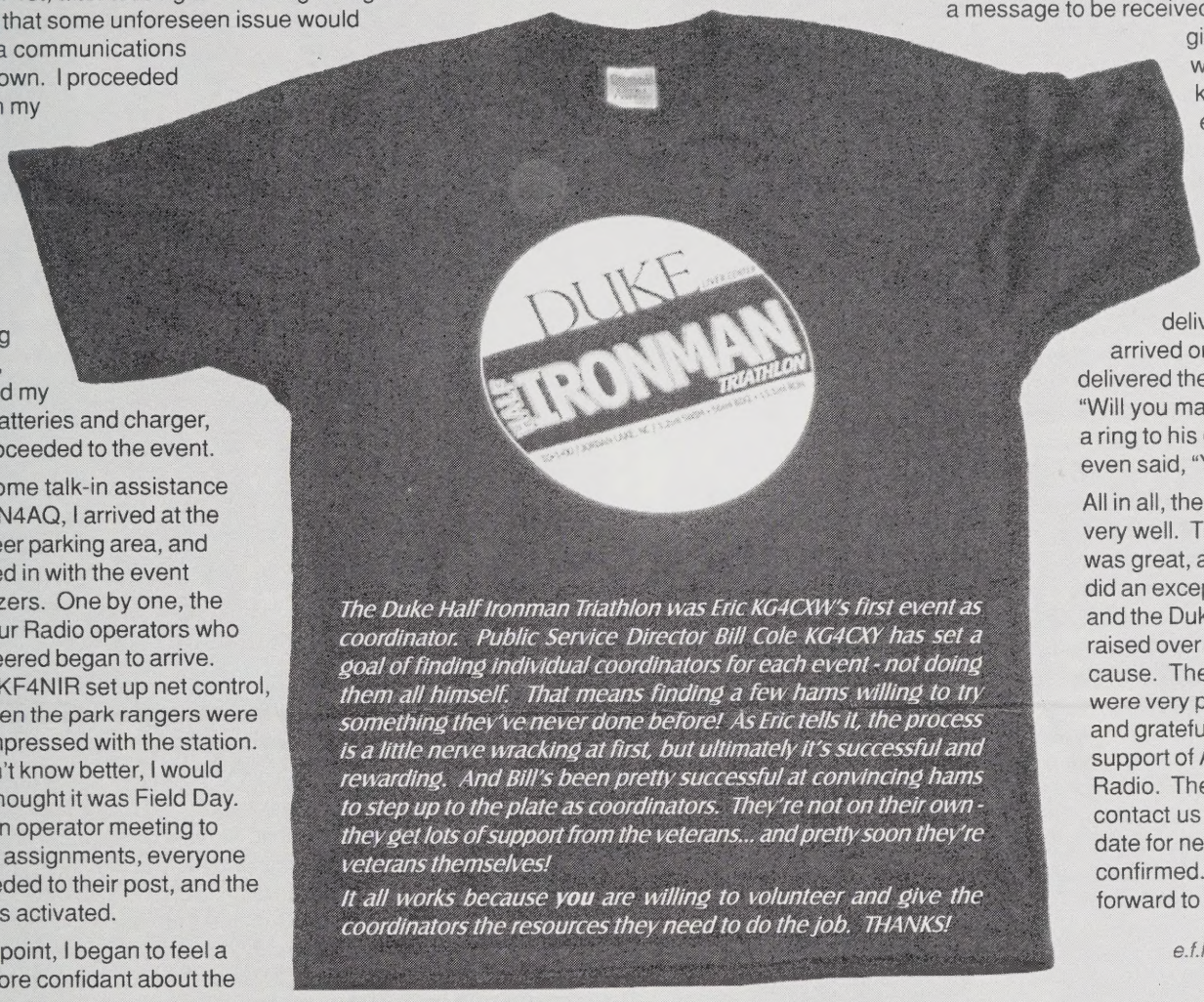
With some talk-in assistance from KN4AQ, I arrived at the volunteer parking area, and checked in with the event organizers. One by one, the Amateur Radio operators who volunteered began to arrive. Ralph KF4NIR set up net control, and even the park rangers were very impressed with the station. If I didn't know better, I would have thought it was Field Day. After an operator meeting to review assignments, everyone proceeded to their post, and the net was activated.

At this point, I began to feel a little more confidant about the preparation that had been done. The event seemed to go very smoothly, and without any problems.

One thing that made it very interesting was "Operation - Where's Waldo" (not his real name). In this operation, amateur radio was given the task of tracking the whereabouts of athlete #55. It seemed that he needed a little assistance setting the stage for his marriage proposal. The plan was that as he approached the finish line, random runners would be given signs that formed a message to be received by his girlfriend, who was a time-keeper at the end of the event. Our mission was a success. The stage was set, the signs were delivered, and #55 arrived on cue. He delivered the final sign, "Will you marry me?" and a ring to his girlfriend. She even said, "Yes".

All in all, the event went very well. The weather was great, all operators did an exceptional job, and the Duke Liver Center raised over $100k for their cause. The organizers were very pleased with, and grateful for the support of Amateur Radio. They promised to contact us as soon as a date for next year is confirmed. I will look forward to it.

contact Eric at:
e.f.haywood@att.net



The Duke Half Ironman Triathlon was Eric KG4CXW's first event as coordinator. Public Service Director Bill Cole KG4CXY has set a goal of finding individual coordinators for each event - not doing them all himself. That means finding a few hams willing to try something they've never done before! As Eric tells it, the process is a little nerve wracking at first, but ultimately it's successful and rewarding. And Bill's been pretty successful at convincing hams to step up to the plate as coordinators. They're not on their own - they get lots of support from the veterans... and pretty soon they're veterans themselves!

*It all works because **you** are willing to volunteer and give the coordinators the resources they need to do the job. THANKS!*

Field Day *continued from previous page*

"Ok Dan, good reporting. So what's the outcome? Did our boys win this enduro de radio? Let's go to Deb down on the field. Deb? What can you tell us?"

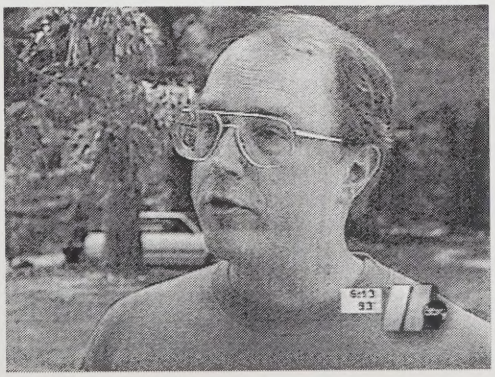
"Thanks Chip. I'm here in the food tent with Jeff, this year's chairman. Jeff, how can you summarize the teams' effort in this years' event?"

"Uh... just work it, man."

"Hmm, well here's Gary, KN4AQ from the 75 meter phone station. Gary, how did we stack up this year against the competition?"

"Hi Deb, well we won't know for a while. The results will be published by our national organization in November."

"So... you won't know how you placed until November?"



"Right. The results have to be documented and sent in. Our results will be compared to the results of about a thousand other teams, and the final results published in a few months. But we will have a prediction available in a week or two, and of course the prediction will be that we'll take first place."

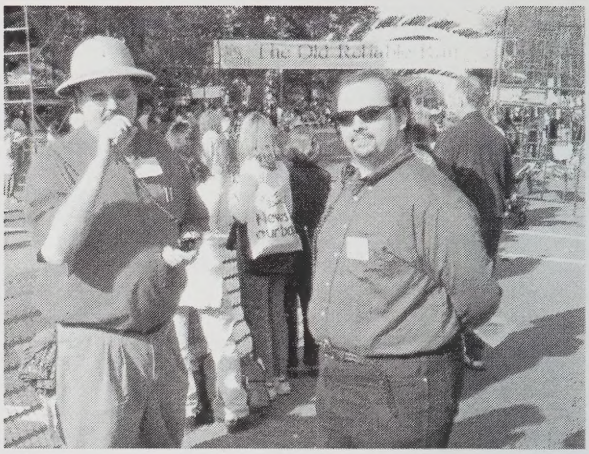
"Ok, thanks Gary. Back to you Chip."

"So there you have it. Sports Planet will bring you the full results as they come available. Dan, any final comments?"

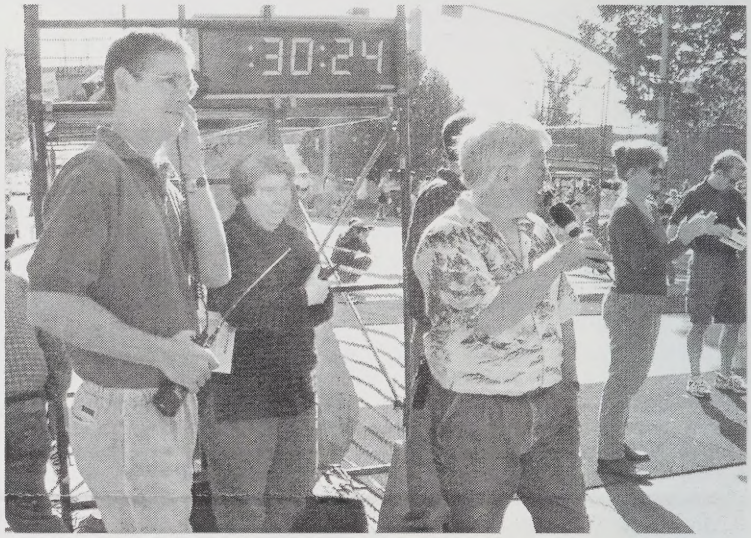
"Yes. This may seem like the most boring thing you've ever been a part of, but some of the contestants have dropped by the booth, and they assure me that the excitement is indeed in the participation."

"So it must be, Dan. And now from all of us here at Sports Planet, we bid you good day. And join us tomorrow, when we bring you another unique sports presentation: The ***Quiddich Championship from Hogwarts***. So long everybody." ■

Snapshots



The Old Reliable RUN



Clockwise, from upper left: Liz KG4UQZ is the tiny figure in the center of the picture, feeding race progress reports to Kelly KD4EWG, the Master of Ceremonies; RARS Public Service Director Bill KG4CXY with Karl K4LNX; Ralph KF4NIR, Liz and Kelly at the finish line; and Bill with Butch Robertson, the race director. Butch is also director for the ***Raleigh Marathon*** coming Dec. 3rd, and this year's Old Reliable served as a trial run for the Marathon. Also helping were Bob KF4MMM, Jeff AC4ZO, Bob K1RCB (aka KG4FIO) and Marian K1MRB (aka KG4IYM). Bob and Marian didn't move to Vermont - their initials weren't available in 4-Land.

Kid's Day - Finding More Fun in Ham Radio

Kent Hoffman, AD4WI
kent.hoffman@cplc.com

David is an eleven-year-old at our church who is interested in Amateur Radio. I wanted him to have a non-threatening radio experience, so when I read an article on the June "Kid's Day", I invited him over for a "radio session". I had previous commitments, so we only had a 2 hour time window. I wrote down "our" callsign, standard terms, and how to open or close a conversation.

I made the first call to a NASA special events station, introduced David, and handed the mike over to him. He was a quick learner, and was quickly "on his own" with some light coaching from me. Before our time was over, David had made about a dozen contacts. More than half his contacts were kids, but the sensitivity and encouragement of the adults he talked to especially impressed me.

The suggested exchange includes name, age, location and favorite color, but discussion often followed on pets, hobbies, sports, etc. It is worth noting that he had a few fruitless (but to him, enjoyable) sessions of calling "CQ Kid's Day", but soon learned to scan the band and snag stations calling Kid's Day. david left the shack that day with a copy of our log sheet and exciting stories of people he talked to in places like Texas, Oklahoma, Washington State, Colorado, and Mississippi. I believe I was as excited about the experience as he was.

LET'S DO IT AGAIN! So what did I learn? That this is an exercise worth repeating. I plan to have David or some other young person over for the next Kid's Day. When? January 6, 2001

Suggested Frequencies: 28350 to 28400 kHz, 21380 to 21400 kHz, and 14270 to 14300 kHz. (Observe third part traffic restrictions when making DX QSOs.). More information is available on page 45 of the December 2000 issue of *QST*.

SET continued from page 5

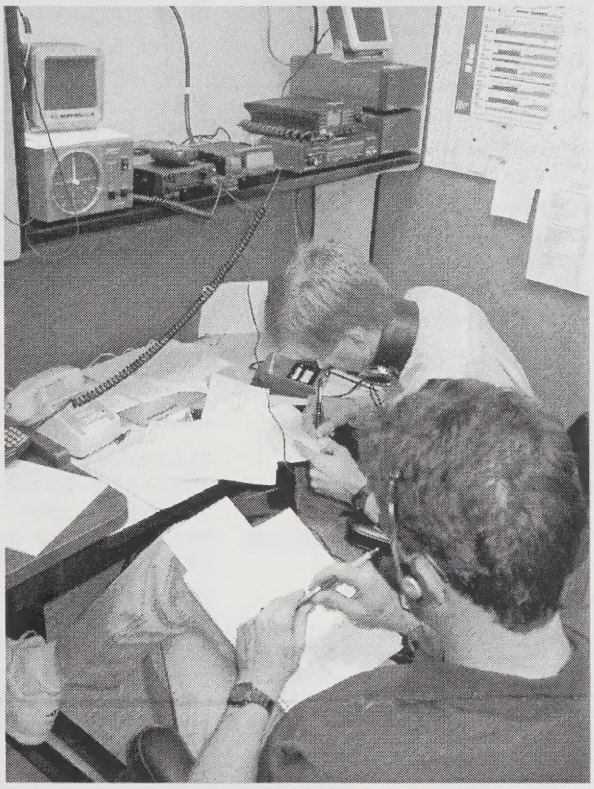
them and had them copy in unison. I pointed to the boxes on the forms as information came pouring in, and barked out instructions: "One word on each line, five words in each row! X-Ray is like a period... just put an X on one of the lines..."

This was not boring! Having the messages flood in over HF was exciting, and each of the hams learning the new skill was thoroughly engaged. Sometimes it was a comedy, as three hams simultaneously copying the same traffic came up with three distinctly different messages. So we learned to ask for *fills* (repeats), count up the *check* (number of words), request that the sending stations slow down ("OK, try that again about half that speed") and improve accuracy, all while coping with the fading and static of the 80 Meter band.

Saturday's first two shifts did nothing else. The message barrage never let up. We forwarded all of them to the Communications Officer on duty at the EOC. In the morning, that was Tom Loree NS2I. Tom sent replies to some of the messages. One particularly interesting exchange involved a request for about a thousand canoes, all without paddles. Where should they be sent? Tom issued a set of coordinates that were, not up a river, but a hundred miles out in the ocean. A message came back from the 'pilot' - "Canoes delivered. No sign of land or people."

Herb Lacey W3HL assisted with traffic training and supervision on Saturday, and Wake EC Ron Ford KG4FJA took over supervisor duties Saturday afternoon, as the two-hour shifts passed all too quickly.

Sunday morning was a bit more relaxed, though ARES operations across the state continued to pass messages between themselves and the State EOC. Mid-morning, the 80 meter band was fading. We couldn't hear stations much west of Winston-Salem. So we suggested moving the net to 40 meters. The Tar Heel Net lists 7232 kHz as the alternate net frequency for daytime operations, but it doesn't get used much. Net Control KE4JHJ moved the net as a test, and we found signals much better on 40. It doesn't always work that way - sometimes skip on 40 is "too long" and skip zones leave big holes in NC coverage. But that day, it was just right, and everyone piled on the 40 meter net. There was prior activity just below 7232, though, so the net was established on 7233 kHz. Everyone found it OK.



WA4AVU transcribes a message while KG4JHC monitors the 146.88 repeater on headphones

The State EOC provided an important destination for traffic, but it was hardly the focus of the net. Counties all over the state were holding their SET nets on VHF repeaters, each with their own scenario. They were taking check-ins, passing local messages and building up points for the Section total. The Tar Heel Net moved back to 80 meters as propagation improved, and the job of Net Control was passed around to everyone who would take it for a few minutes. Each new Net Control added a few points to the score. Each new ham checking in (licensed after 1997) added extra points. Stations checking in on emergency power added extra points.

When the SET period closes at the end of November, KE4JHJ and W4CC will total the scores from all the counties and the statewide net, and submit it to ARRL HQ. Over the past several years, North Carolina has scored near or at the top of the country (we were 1st in 1999). It takes a while to score the SET, so we probably won't know how we did until next summer. Winning again would be nice, but we've already done what we needed to do - get people excited and experienced in handling emergency communications. ■

You too can play in Traffic...

The SET was a hurry-up, feet-to-the-fire exercise... not in-depth training. And only about 28 hams got to play at the State EOC. What about everyone else?

For the rest of us, Jeff Wittich AC4ZO and a group of instructors have begun a series of on-air traffic training classes, using the RARS net, PCTN and the Wake ARES net as the classroom. The series will run as long as there are interested "students".

You learn by copying messages, with instructors and students paired up one-on-one. The messages themselves provide the instruction in short, bite-size chunks.

When you check into a net, tell the Net Control you want Traffic Training, and you and an instructor will head off to simplex or another repeater. You let the instructor know where you are in the series, and he or she will send you the next three messages (they work in groups of three, which should take about 5 to 10 minutes. If you have time, you can receive another three in the same session).

The hams at the SET learned that "formal message traffic" really is the best way to move important, short messages around the state. Jotting down informal notes and tossing them around might work some of the time, but not at this pace, and not when it's important.

They finished their shifts with a much better idea of how to do it... but not yet experts. Our long-term goal is to have a large group of hams who can walk into the EOC, sit down at the radios, know where to tune, who to talk to, how to take the traffic and where to deliver it... all cool and stress free. ***You can be one of those hams!***

Club Meeting Minutes

November 14, 2000

The regular meeting of the Raleigh Amateur Radio Society was held on a special date of November 14, 2000 at the Forest Hills Baptist Church on Clark Avenue. The unusual date was because of the Presidential election which fell on our regular meeting night.

The meeting was called to order at 7:33 by President Tim Nicholson, KF4RTX, who welcomed 84 members. David, N4YTO gave the Treasurer's report. He then covered a few of the rules for tonight's main event.

The annual election was held. AC4ZO presented the Nominating Committee report:

2 year terms as Officers are:

Vice President	Bob Bryer, K1RCB
Treasurer	Greg Seamster, KE4PAX

For one year terms on the Board of Directors are:

Public Service Director	Bill Cole, KG4CXY
Education Director	Lynn Pitegoff, KO4QH
Exciter Editor	Gary Pearce, KN4AQ
RARS Membership Chair	Denyse Walter, KG4CXR
RARS Net Manager	Bill Cole, KG4CXY
At-Large Director	John Jascolka, N4YRD
At-Large Director	Alan Pitegoff
ARRL Liaison	Chuck Littlewood, K4HF

The positions of Field Day Chair and FM Repeater Chair remain open.

Also, the following committee chairs are nominated:

RARS VE Coordinator	Charlie Brown, W4VFJ
RARS Librarian	Jim Walter, KG4FIJ
RARS Web Master	Ashby Spratley III, KB5ZIH
W4DW, W4RNC Trustee	Jeff Wittich, AC4ZO

On motion by K4HF, seconded by AB4OZ the nominations were closed. On motion by AC4ZO, second by KD4ZVW, the President instructed the Secretary to cast a unanimous ballot for the nominees as presented.

At this time, several **Elmer Awards** were presented. The award were made by Bob Scott, KG4IZA and presented by Tim, KF4RTX. The awards went to Gary Ferdinand, W2CS; Alan Pitegoff, AB4OZ; Neal Fisher, N4HAF; and John Aceti, N1GMV.

Bill, KG4CXY thanked the volunteers for their publid service work this fall, and announced the Raleigh Marathon, scheduled for December 3. He said about 15 or so volunteers are still needed for this event, so he passed around a sign-up list.

At 7:46p, Tim introduced Alan, AB4OZ to start the evening's main event: The Annual RARS Auction. Door prizes were not awarded.

Jeff Wittich AC4ZO, Secretary

Board Meeting Minutes

October 17, 2000

The monthly Board meeting of the Raleigh Amateur Radio Society was held at the Forest Hills Baptist Church on October 17. The meeting was called to order by President Tim Nicholson KF4RTX at 7:33p. Members present at that time were: KN4AQ, KG4CXR, K4HF, K4HM, AB4OZ, KO4QH, KF4RDP, KF4RTX, N4YTO and AC4ZO. The total attendance was 12.

On motion by KN4AQ, seconded by KO4QH, the minutes of the September meeting were approved as ammended. N4YTO gave the Treasurer's report. He said that Membership stands at 281.

Cary ARC Smooths the Way for Cary Band Day

Cary Band Day is a long standing and popular tradition, bringing dozens of High School bands from several states to a competition at Cary High School each November. Before the competition, the bands and other civic organizations participate in a parade through the town. In another long standing tradition, the Cary Amateur Radio Club has provided communications for the parade part of the event.

This year, the club helped find some "lost" bands, which are staged in a spider web along neighborhood streets near downtown Cary. And they reported the actual order of bands in the parade to the judging stand to keep the inevitable shuffling of positions from confusing the judges.

Jerry KE4TTS keep an eye on the parade while Herb W3HL (seen through Jerry's window) reports positions to the Judging Stand.

Join Us At The RARS Dinner

Every 4th Tuesday, 6:30 pm at Fat Daddy's on Glenwood Ave.

In the VP report, KF4RTX Tim said that November will be the annual auction but is scheduled for the 2nd Tuesday because the church will be unavailable due to the election. December will be the Holiday Party as usual.

Committee Reports:

Education Department: KO4QH said that the event being planned at Washington GT School has been scheduled for November 14, which conflicts with our November meeting. Lynn is looking for an alternative to just cancelling the program. The Spring class is being scheduled to begin on February 26.

KN4AQ said that the November ***Exciter*** is nearly ready to go to press, and is waiting for several last minute submissions. He is asking for article related HF operating, but is receiving none. Now speaking about Public Service, KN4AQ said a few words about the recent events, and all seemed healthy.

KF4RDP gave the Webmaster report. He described the responsibility of his new job and announced that he will be stepping down at the end of his term.

KG4CXR said in the Membership Services report that she is doing well with the membership cards, with about 250 made and about 50 still to distribute. All is running very smoothly.

K4HM reported on the Hamfest committee. Hank distributed the proposed budget, and it was reviewed. There was a discussion concerning procedural issues with the hamfest account.

K4HF gave the Nominating Committee report:

2001 Officers and Committee Chairs

Officers for 2 year terms:

Vice President:	TBD
Treasurer:	Greg Seamster, KE4PAX

Board Members for 1 year terms:

Public Service Chair:	Bill Cole, KG4CXY
Education Director:	Lynn Pitegoff, KO4QH
Field Day Chair:	TBD
RARS Hamfest 2000 Chair:	Hank Montgomery, K4HM
Exciter Editor:	Gary Pearce, KN4AQ
FM Repeater Chair:	TBD
RARS Membership Chair:	Denyse Walter, KG4CXR
RARS Net Manager:	Bill Cole, KG4CXY
At-Large Director:	Alan Pitegoff, AB4OZ
At-Large Director:	John Jaskolka, N4YRD
ARRL Liaison:	Chuck Littlewood, K4HF
W4DW, W4RNC Trustee:	Jeff Wittich, AC4ZO

Committee Chairman:

RARS Volunteer Exam Coordinator:	Charlie Brown, W4VFJ
RARS Librarian:	Jim Walter, KG4FIJ
RARS Web Master:	Askby Spratley, KB5ZIH

Old Business:

The issue of the Articles Of Incorporation was brought up. Tim is nearly ready to do the filing, but is evaluating two forms to determine which is the correct one. Tim will phone the Secretary of State office for assistance. The item will be tabled until the November meeting.

KF4RTX appointed the Financial Review Committee. The committee is AC4ZO, KN4AQ, and KF4RTX.

An item was carried over from last month concerning RARS logo apparel. K4HM investigated several vendors, and brought his report to the Board. A proposal was briefly discussed. The item was disposed of with Hank taking the action to collect some detailed information concerning the cost of having patches made.

New Business:

KN4AQ brought to the Board an issue regarding the RARS badges. There is a conflict between two vendors, both of whom make the badges currently. The issue was discussed, and it was decided that we would like both vendors to be able to make our badges. K4HF will speak to Cap 'n Badge man to evaluate the concerns.

KF4RDP handled the presentation of the issue concerning the hamfest budget. He moved that: 1, The Board acknowledge receipt of the Hamfest budget; 2, That we direct the Hamfest Committee to maintain their budget and detailed accounting in cooperation with the Treasurer; 3, that we direct the Treasurer to work with the Hamfest Committee to accomplish item 2 and to generally oversee the hamfest budget and advise the committee. The motion was seconded by AB4OZ, and discussion began. Finally a motion was made to Call the Question was made by K4HF. The motion to Call the Question was passed, and the original motion was defeated. A motion was made by N4YTO that we accept the hamfest committee report. The motion was seconded by KF4RTX, and in discussion was withdrawn.

Comments and Announcements:

KF4RDP passed along his thanks to the Board for their assistance during his time on the Board.

KN4AQ welcomed KB5ZIH and made a few comments contrasting tonight's procedures with our usual activities.

With the business complete, on motion by AC4ZO, the meeting adjourned at 9:40p.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeff Wittich AC4ZO, Secretary

Tech/Trader Net
8:30 Saturday on 64
Two Nets In One!

Tune in the
RARS NEWS HOUR
• Newsline
• ARRL Audio News
• R.A.I.N Report
Sunday Nights following the RARS 8:00 Net on 146.64

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the RARS Exciter

Raleigh Amateur Radio Society, Inc.
PO Box 17124
Raleigh, North Carolina 27619

NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION
US POSTAGE PAID
RALEIGH, NC
PERMIT NO. 2130

Snapshots

Garner Police Mobile Command Post is Amateur Radio Equipped

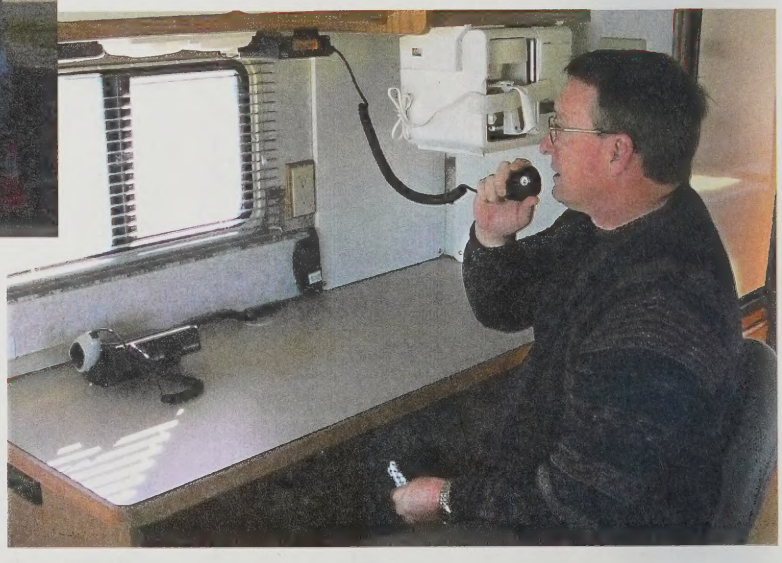
The Garner Police command post now sports a dual-band Amateur Radio station, along with radios for all area police and emergency agencies. Ron ford KG4FJA is Wake County EC, and also a Major in the Garner Police Department. Ron says the vehicle is used by multiple agencies during emergencies, and Amateur Radio needed to play a part.

No, we can't use it for Field Day.

Hamfest Calendar

Nov. 19: JARSfest (Benson)
December: none!
January 21: Richmond, VA ***Frostfest***

courtesy of the **SERA Repeater Journal**



KG4FJA operates the Alinco dual-band radio in the Garner MCP.